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# MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NUMBER

MINNESOTA

## PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

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QUARTERLY

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RUTH A. HAVEN, *Organiser*.

MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor*.

### MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association was held at Hotel Keewaydin, Lake Minnetonka, September 15-17, 1915. The total registration was 125, the largest in the history of the association. The sessions opened with an informal dinner Wednesday evening, after which Dr. Dawson Johnston, Librarian of St. Paul, gave the president's address, setting forth the general theme of the meeting:

#### Publicity and Co-operation.

"Libraries will not be wholly free until they are free to everyone," said Dr. Johnston, "and they will not be free to everyone until they are known by everyone."

"Publicity is the first duty of public libraries as well as of other public institutions. It is not, however, the most important duty, and if properly organized should not involve the expenditure of much time on the part of the individual librarian."

"The newspapers, the best avenue of publicity, are always ready to publish news of general interest, societies are anxious to co-

operate with library authorities in making known the special resources of the library, and business men are glad to assist in those departments which relate to their respective lines of business."

"The most important form of publicity is that devoted to the description of the best books in the library on topics of current interest. In this, co-operation between librarians is not only very desirable but quite possible because it involves the description of books which are common to all libraries."

"Librarians must interest themselves in civic affairs, must collect information regarding city publications, and information regarding the city's resources."

"It is furthermore the duty of librarians to promote better business, through furnishing the best literature on advertising and business."

"The library must embrace in its life all the citizens of the community, which is the end of all library publicity. To do this, it must have the co-operation of all citizens."

Dr. Johnston then presented Miss Lutie E. Stearns, who gave an address on

#### The Library and War and Peace.

Some nations were fighting fiercely.

"Why are you fighting so?" inquired the bystanders.

"To save civilization!" replied the nations severally.

Here a dragged figure rose from the mire under the feet of the combatants and limped lamely away.

"And who are you?" asked the bystanders.

"Don't speak to me—I'm civilization!" the figure made answer.

War as a destructive force, has ever been the arch enemy of art, science, literature and other great constructive forces. In summing up the appalling losses attending military carnage—losses in lives, in money, in ruined homes and devastated lands, we are not so apt to think of losses in interest in literature and literary production. When militarism skulks in at the door, literature flies out of the window. A study of European catalogs at the present time will show a sad falling off of literary output, we believe, save as Sir Gilbert Parker, Bernard Shaw and a few other brave lights have turned their literary attention to some phase of the war's calamities. That war and literature are incompatible is shown by Gouverneur Morris, who says:

"The only really great piece of literature about a war is about the Siege of Troy. And the Siege of Troy was such a little thing. And its smallness makes it personal and human, so that it can be put into literature.

"But nobody can really put a great war into a story. Take our own Civil War—you can't find it reflected in our fiction. But the personal side of it has been made into literature, the human element in it has been reflected in fiction just as the human element of the war of 1870 finds expression in Daudet's stories.

"The best things written about the Civil War deal merely with some of its incidents or characters, not with the war itself as a whole. One of the best of the Civil War books is Owen Wister's 'Life of Grant.' That is a perfect piece of biography, and it's also real literature.

"Of course, I don't expect to find the material for a genuine war novel in Paris. But I do expect to find the sort of material in which I am chiefly interested. I want to see the personal human side of the war. I am interested in the refugees, the hospitals, the families disrupted by the war, the Latin quarter, from which the strong have gone, leaving only the women and the weak. It is of people and places like these that I expect to write.

"I doubt if this war can ever be put into a novel. It's too big. And certainly we are too close to it now to attempt such a task. We must wait for years before we can really see it in its proper perspective."

One cannot name a single great epic or

work in this country as the literary result of any of our six wars. The great Revolutionary and Civil Wars gave us nothing memorable. Wars are too big. Sketches of one day, such as Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage* or of one siege like Richard Barry's *Port Arthur* give us incidents only in comparison with the whole. But along with the retardation of literature through war's alarms comes that of the accompanying blow to library development. The beginnings of the free library idea in Boston in 1848 and the outgrowth of the movement in other places were practically suspended from 1861 to 1872, seven years after the war had ceased and it is safe to predict that the free library movement in Europe will require many years to come to again put it on its feet with the burden of war taxes and all the great costs to be met. All these truths granted, librarians as conservers and preservers and purveyors of literature should be in the fore front of pacific movements.

Longfellow must have had libraries and their appropriations in mind, when he wrote, "Were half the power that fills the world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts

Given to redeem the human mind from error, There were no need of arsenals and forts."

Rev. Dr. Lynch, Secretary of the Church Peace Union, in his recent book entitled *The Last War*; a study of things present and things to come, says there are two weapons of national defense, artillery and national character. Artillery, he holds, has been shown by the last few months to be useless, and so he would have the nation trust entirely to the nobility of its character and the effect it must produce on other people. He would take the money we now spend on gunboats and invest in colleges, hospitals and libraries.

With this wrecking of their business in mind, librarians, we repeat, should become great propagandists for peace. We have no absolute facts or statistics to bear us out in our contention, but we are morally certain that the great libraries of this country, each, with its two or three million circulation and the small libraries, too, in a more quiet way have played no small part in moulding public opinion that exists in this country today in favor of peace as opposed to the war spirit that forced President McKinley to

"Remember the Maine" in 1898. We have come a long way in America in our civilization in a brief 17 years and I for one believe that the libraries of this country are entitled to a large share of the credit in turning the public mind from the arts of war to the arts of peace. Much however, still remains to be done before we wholly eliminate the tooth, claw and fang idea of settling affairs as opposed to arbitration. There are a thousand ways in which the librarian can be a champion of the book as the bullet. As the outward and visible sign, she can display a peace flag, preferably outside her doors where all may see and pattern after. Then she should secure peace publications for her reading table, such as the *Advocate of Peace* and the various publications issued by the Carnegie and Ginn foundations and the American Peace Society. She should have peace lectures and celebrations of peace day. The story hour should be used for stories of heroes and heroines of peace and histories purchased if they can be found, which emphasize the achievements of peace as much as they emphasize the victories of war.

Alexander Fichandler, Principal of a Brooklyn Public School, in an article written for "The Public," the Chicago weekly, on War and Children, says that if we want to abolish war, we must begin with the children. He points out that all their training from the Kindergarten up has the tendency to glorify war and maintains that they should be shown its horrors. We are constantly warning them of dangers that result from improper use of fire, poison, narcotics, alcohol; we paint as vividly as we can the consequences of lying and stealing and other vices; similarly do we attempt to prevent disease and disease spreading. The truth must be told to children, if necessary, if the world is to be made better and happier.

Justice Brewer says:

"First a thought, then a faith, next a struggle, at last a fact. So have entered into human life and history some of its profoundest truths. Such has been and is to be the story of Universal Peace."

What is Patriotism? Is it the enthusiasm of a flag-waving mob that shouts incoherently for war, conquest and expansion at the expense of weaker enemies? Is it a blind faith in the divine right of country—for the country "can do no wrong?" Or is

it the earnest desire to identify country and right, to lead the people into a code of ethics that shall condemn conquest for its own sake, to make one's country a leader in righteousness of the world?

Miss Stearns recommended the following books for purchase by even the smallest library:

**Crane.** Red badge of courage. Appleton, \$1.00.

**French.** Lance of Kanana. Lothrop, \$1.00.

**Gulliver.** Friendship of nations. Ginn, 60c.

Interesting illustrated book for young people.

**Janson.** Pride of war. Little, \$1.30.

A dramatic tale of the seven weeks' war between Turkey and Italy. The author has been called the Kipling of Sweden.

**Jordan.** Blood of the nation. Amer. Unitarian Assn., 40c.

Refutes the fallacy that war promotes virility.

— **Unseen empire.** Amer. Unitarian Assn., \$1.25.

Deals with the secrets of the empire of finance as related to war budgets.

**Lane.** Great illusion. Putnam, \$1.00.

A book for the business man, published in fourteen languages.

**Lynch.** The last war, a study of things present and things to come. Revell, 75c.

**Mead.** Swords and plowshares. Putnam, \$1.50.

**Suttner.** Lay down your arms. Longmans, 75c.

Won the Nobel peace prize in 1905.

The following organizations issue many free pamphlets, and libraries will be placed on the mailing list upon request:

American Association for International Conciliation, 501 W. 116th St., New York.

American Peace Society, Washington, D. C.

American School Peace League, 405 Marlborough St., Boston, Mass.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D. C.

Church Peace Union, 70 Fifth Ave., New York.

Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia (publishes the Peace maker).

World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.

Programs for celebration of Peace Day, May 18, have been published by the U. S. Bureau of Education (Bulletins No. 8, 1912 and No. 12, 1913), in the N. E. A. Bulletin, April, 1915, by the American School Peace League, Fannie Fern Andrews, Secy., 405 Marlborough St., Boston, and in the General

Federation of Women's Clubs, Departments of Work, Handbook No. 2, 1915-16.

At the opening of the Thursday morning session, the president appointed as a nominating committee Miss Patten, Miss Bird and Mrs. Blanchard to report at the business session.

Prof. W. P. Kirkwood, of the University of Minnesota, then opened the discussion on

#### Newspaper Publicity.

The public library is a public service institution and publicity for it depends upon this relationship. Its aim is twofold—to serve as large a constituency as possible—to serve whatever constituency it has to the limit of its ability, to the limit of possibilities.

To meet the first aim it must strive to keep everybody informed as to everything it has that will interest anyone; to meet the second aim it must do special things for individuals and organizations.

The chief instruments of publicity are: the press, the school, the church, the poster, the postoffice, the telephone.

In securing publicity through the press, the first thing is to establish friendly relations with the editor. Get him interested in the work you are doing so that he will be willing to devote a definite space to library news. Then see to it that the material furnished is news, written in condensed, pithy form. Special service may be rendered newspapers in small towns by securing material on matters of local interest; for example, if your town is planning to put in a water system, get material regarding such systems elsewhere and put it in the hands of editors.

In preparing stuff for the press, follow the newspaper style of putting the most important item first. Study good newspapers, and above all, see that copy is handed in in correct form, written only on one side of the paper, with careful attention to spelling and punctuation. An excellent book on the subject is *The Writing of News*, by C. G. Ross. Holt, \$1.40.

Miss Flora F. Carr, librarian of the Mankato Public Library, opened the discussion on successful methods of publicity, with a paper on

#### Publicity Through Exhibits.

Two particular things have influenced me in getting exhibits at our library. I have gone on the theory that from the point of view of the library, exhibits would be a good thing; that exhibits of varied interests would bring in people who ordinarily do not come to the library, and also that they would prove an added interest to those who are already habitual users of the library. Today libraries take advantage of many agencies that will bring people to the library. I do not feel that the library is at all in the same case as the drowning man who snatches after the least straw; we are not in such a bad way as that—but we certainly do have to make stronger efforts to attract people than at one time. And why? Simply because other things are newer and there are so many offsets to the reading of books. So that it is not only through books that we hold people, but through lectures, exhibits, concerts, picture shows, loans of victrola records and other music, and other interests. We have accepted the changes in our field of library work and I assume that nobody here would have to be argued into believing that these new activities are legitimate. What the library may attempt to do in addition to its circulation of books will be influenced by the amount of money to be spent and the personal feeling of the librarian towards these various activities and the effort which different local organizations make toward bringing in interesting things. The other special reason for exhibits has been from a personal point of view. During the year in our town, we get more or less in the way of lectures and music, but absolutely nothing in the way of good pictures. Except for one large exhibit of reproductions which the High School held, in the last four years there have been no other art exhibits except the ones the public library has held. I have felt the lack of such things so much, for to me pictures are a rest, a joy, give me new interests and incentive, and are an outlet,—an expansion of feelings. If they are that to me, they are all that and more to others who are more responsive and receptive than I. Then there is the possibility that they may open up some vision to those less appreciative and keen.

Since last November we have held ten exhibits, an average of one a month. They



have varied in kind and in the interest created. The exhibit of the National Child Labor Committee, held for a week in November, brought many visitors and awakened an interest that had certainly never before been felt in Mankato in this national problem. Interest was stimulated by the presence of Miss Eschenbrenner, the membership secretary. The average daily attendance was about one hundred. The Committee has what is called a suit case exhibit which will be sent to any library. On account of my own sympathy in the work of the Committee, I think I shall make this exhibit an annual one.

Following this, we showed a collection of reproductions of Jules Guérin's prints. These were lovely reproductions and were enjoyed not by everybody but very much by some people. The prints had a selling price of \$6-\$12, with a fifty per cent commission. We sold two of these. They were loaned to us through Mr. William Shepard of the University Art Shop, Evanston, Illinois. The express was all the cost and this was more than covered by the two sales.

We have had three exhibits from the State Art Society; an exhibit of Cadwallader Washburn's etchings in December; in February an exhibit of the drawing work of the Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. The teachers and pupils were attracted to this, as it gave them opportunity to compare their work with that of other schools. The third exhibit from the State Art Society was the collection of handicraft and this exhibit received marked attention.

A very lovely collection of Timothy Cole's wood engravings made one attractive and unusual exhibit. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis showed these and from the secretary of this club I learned who was representing the pictures, and arrangements for an exhibit were made through Miss Alice Barrett. The expense attached included the express to and from Minneapolis and the packing at the Minneapolis end.

In May we had two small exhibits; one of baskets, collected from local people. The work of about a dozen different nationalities was represented. The interest in this exhibit was quite limited. We also showed this month the Venetian Sketches of F. Hopkinson Smith. These sketches I had found listed in the winter in a remainder list for \$2.35 and had bought them. In June

the Scott Country pictures loaned by Houghton Mifflin Company to the Commission came to us. These hundred photographs are beautiful and ought to have interested people, but in general I think they were passed by very indifferently. I should have liked to have had some Scott lover make a talk and connect the stories and pictures, but the only Scott enthusiast I knew was not a good talker.

Our last exhibit held throughout this past August has been the largest held during the year or for many years. It was the collection of George Inness, Jr., consisting of fifteen oil paintings, valued at \$25,000. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts showed these pictures in June and I learned from Mr. Breck, Mr. Inness' secretary's name and address, and wrote for information. He replied that we might have the exhibit for the cost of transportation and insurance back to New York, but when I learned the weight and express rate and made the figures I found it was altogether beyond us, and wrote to Mr. Wiehl to this effect. After a few weeks I was surprised to receive a letter from him saying he was sending the pictures down from Minneapolis without expense to us. From Mankato they would go to Chicago and if we helped in meeting the cost of transportation to Chicago it would be satisfactory to him. This exhibit I consider the most successful for various reasons. Its size, beauty and valuation made an impression even on the indifferent and aroused considerable enthusiasm. It was necessary to hang the pictures downstairs in our lecture room, so that we opened the exhibit to the public for three hours every afternoon and one evening during the week. Each afternoon the exhibit was in charge of some one from the outside. Everybody asked to do this service for us responded cordially and the fact that thirty women were actively interested helped materially in the publicity. Two of the moving picture show men ran slides for us throughout the month without charge, and a professional slide maker made the slides gratis. Students from the Commercial College made typewritten announcements with a catalog of the paintings for the use of visitors. In these ways we had the co-operation and help of a number of people and I felt that the success of the exhibit was due in large measure to this fact. More than eight hundred visited the

exhibit during August, and this week, as the pictures had not been sent for, we opened them for part of two afternoons for students who had been away during the summer and about two hundred came in. I hear that people have talked and talked very favorably about the pictures. They have enjoyed them and feel that they have been given a real treat.

These are the things we have done this year. I do not feel that we have done anything wonderful, but I do feel that everything which we have had has been good, and some things somewhat out of the ordinary. I believe that with a number of libraries co-operating we might be able to secure with much less expense several good exhibits during the year. I have found that larger institutions are interested in our small attempts and that they are glad to help us. Mr. Carpenter of the Art Institute of Chicago could send us this fall a collection of 15-20 pictures of leading Chicago and Northwestern artists, and this he thinks will make a fine exhibit, and if a number of libraries co-operated the expense would not be great. Some of you may have had letters from Mr. Ames of the St. Paul Institute. After the exhibit of Northwestern artists held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts was taken down, he had charge of the collection. I wrote him to see what was left of the exhibit. He was interested and offered to correspond with other Minnesota librarians and see if a circuit might be made. There is the American Federation of Arts which could be of service to us if we worked together. The new Minneapolis Institute of Arts is a great acquisition to the whole state and the Northwest and Mr. Breck has been very cordial and interested. I presume that for some time to come the permanent collections there, will not be large enough to draw from. These are some of the sources from which I think we may get help. Exhibits do not come without some effort, but I have found that it pays to ask for things that you hear about and think you might like. Some of the best things we have had have come because I followed up a little advertisement or newspaper notice. We have spent only about \$15 for exhibit expenses exclusive of the Inness exhibit. We decided a year ago to use the fine money for exhibit purposes, which for us means about \$85, so that after paying for the In-

ness exhibit I think we can still have two or three of some size before 1915 closes. I shall be glad indeed to know of anything any library is contemplating for the year, and shall welcome interest in the suggestions I have mentioned.

And when it comes to the practical question of "does it pay?"—I feel something like Jack in one of Seumas MacManus' stories. Jack's mother says, "Jack, did you sell the cow?" "Yes, mother, I sold the cow." "And what did you get for her?" "Oh," says Jack, "I didn't get money for her, but I got value." And so we may not be able to say definitely that we have so many more readers on account of our exhibits, but we can believe that we have received some return for our efforts and that we have exerted some influence in offering some interests off the beaten path.

The next speaker was Miss H. Audiene Graham, librarian of the Owatonna Public Library, who presented that library's experience in

#### Publicity Methods.

Mr. Dooley has expressed the commercial spirit of this "goolden age" when he said, "I wonder how much it costs to have a pome or a story printed in wan iv these poplar magazines with all the good advertisin' in them." It is a day when the commodity which is not advertised is the loser. And if advertising pays for the business man, why should it not for the library? Formerly, librarians used what we might call "interlor" advertising by the use of display racks, bulletins, posted lists, etc., but little effort was made to induce the non-frequenter to come and see the result of their efforts.

Gradually librarians have relinquished more of their technical duties and are getting in touch with the outside world. The newspaper has become perhaps the commonest medium for publicity by means of annotated lists of accessions or of subjects interesting to various classes of the community. I sometimes doubt the value of these and wish there were a more tangible means of ascertaining what kind of a notice is the greatest success. As one of our editors said, "Librarians' notices are too much like a catalog." And right here the editor and the reporter will help us get the journalistic point of view. Too many of our lists are written with a stilted style and a weekly

sameness. Rather than the short annotations of so many books, it would be better to make a leader of one by a lengthy review; or, follow the plan of publishers by reprinting the most interesting chapter and thereby arouse the curiosity of readers. We have all been sold by the usual patent medicine advertisement, but it suggests a possibility for librarians—in fact if skillfully written, the reader need not be sold. People are always interested in personals. Give timely sketches of authors and more of library happenings in the way of improvements, plans, etc. If possible, win reporters and editors over to the library cause and you will find them doing a lot of indirect advertising for you.

Our first use of moving picture slides this summer proved somewhat of a failure. An interview with the manager resulted in his graciously offering to furnish and make the slides—but much to the dismay of librarians who have been drilled to “take great pains in slant, height and uniformity of letters,” the slides were almost unreadable. We could not tactfully suggest that he stop running them, so new slides were not submitted. For the coming year we plan to run some taken from real pictures. Last spring a picture was taken of the 86 children at the Story Hour. A slide was made from it with the words “Find yours” and will be used in connection with our fall campaign for the Story Hour. Our youngest patron is between three and four years old and toddles up the steps with the largest picture book to be found in the library. We plan to catch his picture for exhibit. After school, the students from the High School and Pillsbury Academy swoop down upon us in numbers of twenty and thirty. We hope to catch their picture some busy day and use the heading “Are you in this crowd?” Someone has suggested giving the entire process by which a book is secured or a reference problem solved, showing the gleeful expression of a patron with his wants satisfied. This is a novel idea, and as yet, I have not heard of its having been put into effect. Even pictures of a crowded reference or reading room would be well worth while, for we are all interested in real people and real things and we usually want to do what we see every one else is doing.

The work with the schools is perhaps the most satisfying, for it is not alone the pu-

pils but the parents whom we reach. This year we plan to give instruction to the students from the sixth grade through High School. As many more teachers have requested libraries this year, it is sufficient proof of their value. We have planned a reception for the teachers of all schools in the city and our superintendent has become so enthusiastic over it that he has offered to help with the program and expense and has expressed his desire to have it immediately. For the latter part of the year we plan to adopt the plan of a Wisconsin library by giving a series of vocational talks using mostly local people and the best we can “get for nothing” from outside. The superintendents of city and county schools are co-operating with us in printing annotated lists for grades 5 to 8, upon which the school collections will be based.

We have lately tried the method of taking the books to the people in a new way. It was discovered that our Bible stories and Sunday School helps were meeting with a dustier fate than the little toy dog. When opportunity affords itself, we bring them to the attention of teachers and students but that opportunity is rare; so we have started them all on a tour for exhibition in the different Sunday School rooms, leaving them in each place for two or three weeks and permitting their loan during the week.

As fast as possible we are getting books on technology and the trades and will exhibit them together with a selection of popular books in the factories. These books are not stationed on account of their distance from the library—for ours is a small city—but to let this class of people know we want them and have books from which they will get both help and enjoyment. Arrangement has been made to place a station library in the Farmers' Club Rooms, and send out a set of libraries to be used in connection with the agricultural teacher's lectures throughout the county. The Commercial Club is another possibility for a miscellaneous collection of books, chiefly pertaining to business.

With last year's county fair, a collection of books was placed in the Woman's Building. They included books on cookery, home furnishing, house plans, efficiency, poultry, etc. One of the prizes was awarded to an eggless, milkless and butterless cake. Numerous copies of the recipe were distributed



and marked "From the Public Library." The next day after the fair brought us an unprecedented circulation of five cook books.

After all it is the personal recommendation that counts, either through members of the staff or patrons of the library, usually the latter is more effective. In a small way we are starting a mailing list by keeping a record of people who are interested in certain classes, the names of these being found by looking up the borrowers' numbers on the book cards of certain classes. As our new books are cataloged they are placed on display for one week and a card sent to the townspeople who are likely to be interested in some of them. A method of reaching teachers is to post notices of all books relating to their profession on the school bulletin board and send a monthly list of magazine articles which your superintendent will gladly mimeograph for distribution. Use the school paper as a vehicle for distributing library and book news. We have kept in touch with the proceedings of the city council by sending bibliographies of subjects which are being discussed, such as municipal slaughter houses, municipal packing plants, and clean-up week, and have published them in the paper to show the taxpayers where such information can be found.

Newspapers and moving picture theaters have stationed bulletin boards on the most prominent street corners. Would this not be a splendid place for the library to exhibit its wears, securing attractive posters from the publishers, giving views of the library and lists of questions which can be answered at the library.

About one of the most potent forces in advertising is timeliness. Too many of us have waited a year for discount before purchasing. If a book doubles its circulation, it doubles its value to the library; so we should take advantage of publishers' advertisements by having it on hand at the right time and enough copies to meet the demand. In this way we will increase the good will of the library and decrease the large percentage of people who do not use the library because they have given up trying to find their particular quests in.

A paper prepared by Miss Stella L. Wiley, formerly librarian at Hibbing, was read by her successor, Miss Dorothy Hurlbert, on a

#### Show Window Exhibit.

Every up-to-date merchant realizes the advertising value of a good show window in which to display his wares. Why should not the library utilize the suggestive power that an attractive window display carries in exhibiting the goods it offers to the public?

This idea was carried out by a library exhibit held in a Hibbing grocery store window for one week,—from Saturday afternoon to the Friday night following. Books pertaining to household arts, mounted magazine covers, posters, periodicals and printed signs completed the array. "Public Library Exhibit" surmounted the display. Gummed-letter signs inviting the passerby to improve his reading opportunities or to ride his hobby at the public library, were pasted on bristol board and posted,—in several different languages.

A partial answer to the inevitable question, Did it pay? came the second day of the exhibit when the proprietor of a rival grocery visited the president of the library board in high dudgeon, with the complaint that too many people were being attracted by this novel advertising. They would, in all probability, glance into the other window and be led thereby, to invest in sundry succulent radishes or early tomatoes.

Many persons inquired of the sales-force if they could get those books there, were surprised to see there existed such things as whole books of crochet patterns, house plans, rugs, plumbing,—what not?

The exhibit was written up in the local daily paper, and was commented upon favorably by many new and old library visitors.

Last, but not least, the library board members themselves became interested. Their usual tolerance toward the librarian's latest whim changed to actual enthusiasm before the week of the exhibit ended. They took their friends to see what the library was doing and later urged that this valuable method of giving publicity to the library's resources be continued with other merchants of Hibbing.

Miss Amy A. Lewis, librarian of Fergus Falls, gave their experience with

#### Exhibits at County Fairs.

Our first library exhibit was held in a vacant store under unfavorable circumstances. Screens borrowed from one of the churches, also the wall space were covered



with green paper. We had bulletins of all sorts from our own library, one of agriculture with cattle and sheep, also vegetables, birds, etc., with posters from the Library Commission and traveling library literature, Farmers' bulletins and lists of books. Although the exhibit was somewhat hidden behind a silo, it attracted a good deal of notice.

The next year the fair was held in the High School auditorium and gymnasium. Here we had much improved facilities and a good location, and were able to accomplish more. High skeleton screens were provided by the management for the use of exhibitors. These were covered with green burlap, and on them were hung our posters and pictures, including library helps, and a Junior Civic League bulletin.

We also had an attractive exhibit of books arranged on tables, one tier above another, Farmers' bulletins, books on agriculture, including the last year book, McKeever's Farm boys and girls, copies of Minnesota Farmers' Library, books for rural teachers such as Dutton's School management, Davenport's Education for efficiency, King's Education for social efficiency and many others—books on gardening, house planning and decoration, model farm houses, one of the Minnesota Traveling Library pamphlets. An attractive collection of children's books comprising illustrated books—the Farm book, the Chicken world by E. Boyd Smith, being very prominent. Two young ladies of our city gave very valuable assistance with this exhibit. We had a High School boy in charge during afternoons and evenings. He answered questions and did good work.

This exhibit proved a great success and the total expense was only about \$1. We now intend to get in touch with the Ottertail County Farmers' Clubs and offer to send them libraries of 25 volumes for fifty cents. We have borrowers in the country districts and would have more if it were not for the fee charged—\$1.50 a year.

The exhibit of publicity methods prepared by Charles E. Rush, librarian at St. Joseph, Mo., for the A. L. A. meeting at Washington added interest to the discussions on this subject.

Miss Lutie E. Stearns gave the closing address of the morning on

#### Is the Public Library Fulfilling Its Mission?

The mission of the public library, in a word, is to bring to the people the books that belong to them. With this abridgment of Mrs. Fairchild's definition conceded, the first question that arises is that of the service rendered by the library in getting the books across, as the modern phrase has it. We hear much in these days of the transition from the old preservative idea to the modern distributive policy and we have been congratulating ourselves upon the removal of every possible barrier in the path from the borrower to his book.

Miss Stearns then proceeded to describe in her own inimitable style a recent experience in a large public library, which she visited as a borrower instead of as a Library Commission visitor. She advised all librarians present to put on a disguise and enter their own libraries to see the treatment given by the assistants through the enforcement of her own rules. "It should be emphasized," she continued, "over and over again, that in fulfillment of the mission of the library, quality of service is paramount. It is not sufficient to put under the half-tone illustration of your building in your advertising the motto "Ich dien," lest your patrons lured by your printing and your pretensions indulge in sardonic laughter over their reception. There should be no cause for boasting over a million circulation, when possibilities of two million are unrealized through the operation of hampering, irksome and unnecessary rules, which keep the real owners of books away from their own property. Hail the day, when the public, now regarded with stultifying suspicion by some of their own misguided servants will demand free and open access to the things of the mind and of the spirit, relegating to other employments in the community those that have not the great vision, or having it, will not heed the call of the hour. There are many librarians who have seen the vision, but is there a librarian here present that would say, "I have reached the complete fulfillment of the mission of my library." Such indeed should be freely translated to be the keeper of the books of Heaven, of Revelations, of the Acts of the Apostles.

As President Wellman said in his address at the A. L. A. Conference: "This, then, I conceive to be the great fundamental obliga-

tion of the public library—to make accessible to all men the best thought of mankind, whether it be found in the classic works of the older civilizations that preceded our own, or in the innumerable derivative writings of lesser minds. And this function is one that I trust may never be forgotten, however far it may seem well to extend the province of the library in other directions. While striving in every wise way to further the material or ephemeral interests of our communities, above all we as librarians should prize and cherish the things of the mind and of the spirit. Only those gifted by God can hope for the supreme joy of feeding the pure, white flame that lights man's pathway through the ages. Few they be and blessed. It is privilege enough for us to strive to hold aloft the light, and carry ourselves staunchly and worthily as torch-bearers."

At the afternoon session the theme was co-operation between state departments and societies and local libraries.

Mr. W. T. Cox, State Forester, explained the purpose of the Forestry Service, which includes the management of the state forests, the supervision of all matters of forest protection and reforestation, and told of the work of the patrolmen and rangers in fire prevention.

Although it is generally supposed that the lumber industry in the state is dead, timber is still the greatest single crop in Minnesota. More than half the state is still devoted to growing trees.

The enemies of the forestry service are the land shark, the short-sighted lumberman, who sees only the next year's cut, and the professional politician who wants it to be a political plum tree.

People know too little about forestry, and libraries can help in educational work. The following books should be in every library:

Cheyney & Wentling—The woodlot.

Pinchot—Primer of forestry.

Price—Land we live in.

He urged librarians to join the Minnesota Forestry Association which is the oldest association of its kind in the U. S. It was instrumental in bringing about extensive planting of groves, when prairies were being settled. It has accomplished a great deal in the way of bringing about better care of woodlots on the farm. It is inter-

ested in fire prevention work and conservation of the states' timber resources in the forest regions. The Forest Service co-operates with the Minnesota Forestry Association in the publication of "North Woods" devoted to the advancement of the cause of forestry and to the interests of all outdoor life in the state. Membership in the association for a fee of \$1.00 includes a subscription to this monthly periodical.

The next speaker was Mr. G. A. Gesell, Secretary of the League of Minnesota Municipalities. This organization includes about 100 cities in its membership, and its purpose is to seek co-operation in solving the problems of municipal government. The league holds annual conventions, and through the Municipal Reference Bureau is gathering the experience of various municipalities for the benefit of all. A bulletin on Public Utility Rates has been published, and others will be issued when the material is collected.

In the absence of Mr. Flagg, Director of the State Art Society, Mrs. Margaret Evans Huntington, made a plea for membership in the society, which entitles one to the Minnesotan, a valuable monthly magazine now undertaken by the society.

Mrs. Charles Sproull Thompson of Minneapolis spoke on the organization of the Drama League and its various activities. She urged librarians to organize groups of children, to encourage the production of good plays in local centers, and their exchange between neighboring towns. She commended the outdoor theater recently opened at Anoka, and rapidly becoming a factor in the community life.

Miss Stearns told of the success of dramatic readings as conducted in Wisconsin libraries and said that librarians should aid in securing good plays.

The afternoon closed with a presentation on the lawn of Stratford Miracles, a play for children, written by Miss Irene McKeehan of Minneapolis which won the first prize in the recent Minneapolis Drama League contest. The play was given by a group of children under the direction of Misses Ida Ferguson, Mabel Bartleson, Ruth Rosholt and Mabel Abbott of the Minneapolis Public library, coached by Miss Du Toit. The play takes place in Charlecot Park where Will Shakespeare and some of his companions play at miracles. It was given as an ex-

ample of a simple Shakespeare celebration for children, and was put on with only a little more than one week's preparation. The play is a charming piece of writing and was given with evident spontaneity and enjoyment by the children.

The address of the evening was given by Mr. Allen D. Albert, of Minneapolis, Secretary of the Commercial and Civic Federation of Minnesota. His subject was **The Public Library and Social Service**. He defined social service very broadly as anything which relates to the community welfare and gave to librarians an enlarged vision of the library functions. In answer to questions as to the work of the Federation, which he represents, he described a visit to a typical Minnesota town, the arousing of interest and development of plans for municipal improvement.

On Friday morning, the meeting opened on the hotel veranda with the reading of a paper on **Literary Inspirations** by Dr. George Huntington, of Northfield. He defined what is meant by the term; sources of inspiration in this sphere, three great types of literary inspiration; its function in literary production; its limitations and responsibilities. This was followed by a discussion of **The Small Library as a Center of Book Distribution**, by Miss May Masee, editor of the A. L. A. Booklist. Miss Masee quoted from an address by Mr. Melcher of the Stewart Book Shop at Indianapolis, given at the meeting of the American Booksellers' Association in New York City. His suggestions regarding making the book store an absolute part of the community and state life, through advertising, special notices to individuals, development of the store's personality and better training for clerks might be applied to libraries with equal force. Miss Masee then explained the methods and use of the book list, urging librarians to have a definite plan in selection of books and above all to "Check up the book list with people."

The book symposium opened with a paper by Miss Ruth F. Eliot on

#### Modern Poetry.

Despite the platitude that this is a mechanical age, the triumph of the twentieth century will lie, not in the submarines, but in its poetry. For though scientific invention has progressed with astonishing rapidity, poetic invention has encountered virtual

stagnation. Only a generation ago we placidly announced that the poets were dead. The result was an instant proof that they were not. A poetic revival seemed spontaneously generated, which found expression in the formation of societies and periodicals consecrated to its encouragement, in amazing productivity as testified by the publication of many volumes of verse, in enthusiastic recognition on the part of reviewers, and finally in the genuine and friendly interest manifested by the "educated public." Poetry has even become, as someone has said, "a mentionable subject in decent society."

The significant thing about all this new poetry is its diversity of treatment and of content. Violating the Victorian tradition of austerity and discipline, of meditative calm and spiritual emphasis, it nevertheless reverts again and again to the old classic types. Evidence of this occurs in the works of Yeats, Watson, and Margaret Woods. In general, however, the tendency of modern verse is towards emancipation from the old limitations of technique, and towards complete freedom in form, in subject and in spirit,—a tendency resulting in many interesting experiments.

This age of experimentation was, as an English critic has pointed out, preceded and influenced by a transition period, the dominant voice of which was of course Kipling's. Essentially democratic in thought and feeling, he became intimately concerned with the emotions, prejudices, interests and activities which constitute the life of the ordinary man. And so, in a far truer sense than Burns or Wordsworth, Kipling has impressed himself upon the common people, portraying in his ballads universal feelings, which "everyone without distinction might feel in a vigorous and perhaps boisterous way," and altogether devoid of the delicate subtleties and implications, the tenuous beauty and aristocratic spirit of his English contemporaries. The virility of his splendid, stirring verse is occasionally coarsened by a vulgarity which is quite absent in the work of Masefield and Noyes, both of whom he has profoundly influenced.

Mr. Masefield is "fundamentally a lyric poet whose poetry springs, not so much from intense interest in the lusty vigor of common life, as from an intense feeling for sheer beauty." But he, like Wilfred Gibson, "be-

came obsessed with the conviction that poetry ought to be made to do something else than suggest feeling and ideas in a beautiful way; that it ought to serve a social purpose; that it ought to concern itself with practical moral questions; that it ought to present actual life, realistically."

In support of this theory, Masefield has sacrificed his very real lyric gift, yet this effort to bring poetry into touch with modern life has been the strongest stimulus to contemporary poets. It has produced work of stronger fiber, more concrete imagery, more effective phrasing and more colloquial diction. It has also increased a tendency towards narrative form, and it has introduced an element of insurgency which is occasionally mistaken for emotional power, when it is really emotional bravado.

It is this up-to-date, rebellious, fervent sort of poetry, with its "fearless scrutiny of disagreeable realities," which is distinctively American, and which is exemplified at its best by Conrad Aiken, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Brian Hooker, Nicholas Vachell Lindsley and Louis Untermeyer. At least all these men have something to say, and they say it with due regard for rhythm and form. Arthur Davison Ficke and Robert Frost have done especially notable work. The latter has expressed in poetry the very essence of New England atmosphere, with its retrospective spirit and somber beauty.

It is probable, however, that these younger American poets must pay for their modernism by retaining only a temporary foothold in English literature. They make very respectable contributions to popular magazines as has been attested by the selection which Mr. Braithwaite has garnered in his anthology of magazine verse. No critic has been so hopeful, so eagerly appreciative, of the present condition of American poetry as he, yet his very enthusiasm and responsive sympathy weaken the service he has undoubtedly accomplished.

Contemporary verse in England, excluding Masefield and Noyes, is on a slightly surer basis. Certainly Walter de la Mare, William Davies and Ralph Hodgson tower above all the rest, though their work is hardly known in this country, except such portions as have appeared in the compilation called "Georgian Poetry." James Stephens and Rupert Brooks have claims on our attention which cannot be disregarded.

Of course the most provocative movement in modern poetry is that of the imagists. This is supposed to provide a startling innovation, first perpetrated by Ezra Pound. In reality it is simply a resurrected theory derived from the French, and directly traceable to the troubadours, through as Mr. Howells points out, the psalms of David might well be called "vers libre." These imagistic writers have deliberately abandoned faith in metrical form. They "demand complete freedom of rhythm as a requisite for expressing emotion," thus overthrowing at one blow the principles enunciated by Sidney Lanier in his "Science of English verse." Because feeling is unfettered by any restriction, because it is free, irregular, capricious, they contend that its poetic expression should be quite as unregulated. Their method is therefore simple. They merely write violent prose and chop it up into lines, usually short, and usually beginning with a capital letter. This may seem manifestly absurd, yet the imagists are tremendously earnest and have stated in all seriousness just what they are striving for, aside from this disregard of technique. They wish, we are informed, "precision of language, clearness of vision, concentration of thought, combined in a dominant image." All this is very commendable, but I am rather skeptical as to their achievement, for, after all "the sole criterion by which any artistic theory can be judged is its success in practice." Amy Lowell who is a foremost exponent of free verse, though she prefers to call it "unrhymed cadence," challenges our attention thus:

"My thoughts

Chink against my ribs

And roll about like silver hail-stones."

There is something uncomfortably pathological in this suggestion, but no poetry. Yet Mr. John Gould Fletcher, perhaps the most notable of the imagists, gravely insists that Miss Lowell's work is comparable in importance to the European war, and this despite the fact that one of her productions, published backwards, in a recent issue of a magazine, made quite as good sense as if printed in the correct way. He himself has written better things, for in spite of his effort to discard rhythm he is too much of a poet not to betray a feeling for movement and accent, which raise his work to a level higher than that usually reached by the imagists. However, it lacks that essential



quality of emotional force which authentic poetry must possess, and for which the imagists all clamor, but never attain. They tell us, as Mr. Aiken observes, "that they are going back to essentials, that they will speak to us in a simple, direct speech which is human and natural, with no decoration or pretentiousness; clear outlines, the exact word, few adjectives. And what they give us are frail pictures, whiffs of windy beaches, marshes, city streets, disheveled leaves." Their chief value is of suggestion; as a whole they are merely pretty, unorganic and insignificant. Furthermore they think that saying a thing expresses it.

The most extreme type of free verse is of course found in Mr. Masters' "Spoon River Anthology"—that "extraordinary study in mortuary statistics." Its contents are a series of monologues, each supposed to be spoken by one of the occupants of the cemetery in Spoon River, a middle-western community, which seems to have left much to be desired as regards the character of its inhabitants. These epitaphs reveal in a few casual, uncompromising lines, the insidious forces which moulded and embittered their lives. Most of these lives were ended by methods unhappy and ingenious. Take this as an example:

If even one of my boys could have run a news-stand,  
Or one of my girls could have married a decent man,  
I should not have walked in the rain  
And jumped into bed with clothes all wet,  
Refusing medical aid.

This is as far from art as the geometrical eccentricities of the cubists, but it is at least intelligible. Not as creative achievement, but as the manifestation of a tendency, as the expression of a perfectly natural struggle for poetic liberation, is the imagistic poetry significant. It affords only one aspect of the aim of all modern poetry,—the interpretation and enrichment of modern life.

Prof. A. C. Krey of the University of Minnesota gave a short talk on

#### Books on the War.

A complete list of the books on the war published since July, 1914, does not exist, and only the historian will ever have to compile such a list. However, in each of the warring countries, as well as in some of the

neutral lands, enterprising individuals have undertaken to furnish selected lists from time to time. For general purposes these may be regarded as the most comprehensive lists for their respective countries.

**England:** Lange, F. W. T. and Berry W. T.  
Books on the great war. Grafton & Co., London.

Two lists have already appeared.

**France:** Maire, A. and Pereire, A. Les sources de l'histoire de la guerre Européenne, 1914-15, Champion, Paris.

**Germany:** Hinrich. Die Deutsche kriegsliteratur, Leipzig.

Two lists have appeared covering the first seven months of the war and contain upward of 2,900 titles.

Similar lists will no doubt be made for the other countries. Such lists, though representing some effort at selection, can only be called critical lists. Fortunately, however, some of our leading scholarly periodicals are making an effort to evaluate war publications. Americans, having less reason for strongly biased opinion, are still able to give relatively calm and dispassionate estimates of the probable permanent value of current works. This factor should give librarians added assurance in using American reviews. The American Historical Review, the Political Science Quarterly, the Scientific American, the Nation and Independent may be mentioned among the more helpful periodicals which are devoting special attention to war books.

For books explaining the background of the Great War, the classified list drawn up by H. H. B. Meyer of the Library of Congress is probably the most complete critical list. It has omitted some few very excellent works and included others which seem of little value, but on the whole it is excellent. The list compiled for the H. W. Wilson Company by Miss Corinne Bacon, is somewhat smaller in scope, but excellent in its selection of books. It is to be hoped that the H. W. Wilson Company will continue this work. Very helpful lists also have been published by various libraries, e. g. Minneapolis Public Library and by W. D. Goddard, Librarian of the Naval War College at Newport. The Library Journal contains notices of most of these lists.

The following works ought to be added to the list compiled by the Minnesota Public Library Commission, published in *Library Notes and News*, March, 1915:

**Gibbons, H. A.** The new map of Europe. Century, \$2.00.

A very interesting and impartial account of some of the leading issues of the war.

**Hazen, C. D.** Europe since 1815. Holt, \$3.

Probably the best one volume account of the history of the century preceding the war.

**Mahan, A. T.** The influence of sea power upon history. Little, \$4.00.

A work more influential though less a subject of contemporary controversy than either Bernhard's or Cramb's much advertised books.

**New York Times.** Current History.

Undoubtedly the less partial and more comprehensive summary of current events and opinions.

**World's Work.** War Manual.

Miss Helen J. Stearns of the Library Commission presented with brief comments a list of

#### Reference Books for a Small Library. Dictionaries.

**Webster's New international dictionary** of the English language. Rev. ed., 1910. Merriam, \$12.00.

Absolutely necessary to any library.

**New standard dictionary.** 1913. Funk & Wagnalls, \$12.00.

Popular dictionary especially adapted to office and journalistic use. Contains antonyms. Words in simplified spelling under usual spelling.

#### Encyclopedias.

**New international encyclopedia.** New ed. to be completed in 24v. Dodd, \$100 in library buckram.

Five per cent discount for cash, or can pay \$4 down and \$4 per month. Price will increase later. Address Mr. W. L. Sill, 1997 Selby Ave., St. Paul, who is Minnesota agent.

**Standard reference work.** 6v. Wells Bros., Minneapolis, \$21.75.

Buy if cannot afford New international. Preferable to Appleton's New practical encyclopedia. 6v. \$9.75.

#### Periodical Indexes.

**Reader's guide to periodical literature.** Wilson Co., White Plains, N. Y.

Cumulations:

v. 1, 1900-04, \$16.00.

v. 2, 1905-09, \$24.00.

v. 3, 1910-14, \$32.00.

Monthly, \$12 a year. Special rates to small libraries by arrangement with the H. W. Wilson Co. Buy the cumulated volumes, if the library has the periodical sets for the dates covered.

**Walter.** Periodicals for the small library.

A. L. A. pub. bd., 10c.

Helpful in selecting reference periodicals.

#### Ethics.

**Edwards.** Popular amusements. Univ. of Wis., Studies in American social conditions, \$1.00.

Intended for the use of community or social center groups.

#### Religion.

**Bible.** Revised version. Nelson, \$1.50 to \$9, depending on binding.

**Cruden.** Complete concordance. Dodd, \$1.50.

**Jacobus.** Standard Bible dictionary. Funk, \$6.00.

**Smith.** Bible dictionary, ed. by Peloubet. Winston, \$2.00.

#### Sociology.

**Newark, N. J., Public Library,** comp. Subject index to 500 societies which issue publications relating to social questions. H. W. Wilson Co. Rev. ed., 10c.

**Social forces,** a topical outline with bibliographies. Mrs. A. S. Quackenbush, Portage, Wis., 20c.

**Immigrants in America,** program for a domestic policy. Com'n. of Immigrants in Amer., 95 Madison Ave., New York.

**Voigt & Barto.** How to become a naturalized citizen. Boyer, \$1.00.

**Robert.** Rules of order. Rev. ed. Scott, \$1. Contains twice as much material as earlier ed. Just issued.

**Terhune.** Every day etiquette, a practical manual of social usages by Marion Harland. 1905. Bobbs, \$1.00.

or

**Roberts.** Cyclopedia of social usage, manners and customs of the 20th century. Putnam, \$3.50.

Best manual of etiquette so far published and a convenient reference work. Not alphabetically arranged.

#### Federal Documents.

**U. S. Census Bureau.** Abstract of 13th census of the U. S., with Minnesota supplement. Free.

**U. S. Congress.** Congressional directory. Issued each session. Apply to Congressman.

**U. S. Geological Survey.** Topographical maps of Minnesota. 5c per sheet from the Geological Survey.

Post route and rural delivery maps can also be purchased from Disbursing Clerk, P. O. Dept., Washington, D. C.

**U. S. Statistics Bureau.** Statistical abstract of the U. S. Apply to Congressman.

#### State Documents.

**Minnesota.** Legislative manual. 1 copy free to every library for postage.

**Minnesota—Railroad and Warehouse Commission.** Railroad map of Minnesota. Free.

For list of state publications, see Library Notes and News, December, 1913, and for other Minnesota material. Same, June, 1915.

#### Debate Books.

**Abridged debaters' handbooks.** Wilson Co., 25c each.

**Debaters' handbook series.** Wilson Co., \$1 each.

To be purchased as there is demand for them. National defense, the subject for Debating League, 1915-16, is just issued.

**Gislason.** Effective debating. U. of Minn. Extension Division, 15c. Free to applicants in Minnesota.

Contains the usual advice on argumentation, evidence, etc.

**Ringwalt.** Briefs on public questions. Longmans, \$1.20.

Has less dead wood than Brookings & Ringwalt. Topics newer and reference material more up to date.

**Nichols.** Intercollegiate debates. v. 1-4. Hinds, Nobles & Eldredge, \$1.50 each.

Regular yearbook of information on college debates.

**Robbins.** High School debate book. McClurg, \$1.00.

Briefs on 18 live subjects. References to periodicals in small libraries.

#### Yearbooks.

**Statesman's yearbook.** Macmillan, \$3.00.

Small library should purchase occasionally. Should be kept up to date during the war. Much used.

**World's almanac.** Press pub. co., 35c paper.

Miscellaneous information of all kinds, difficult to find elsewhere. Order early, edition soon exhausted. Information on societies limited. Use American yearbook for these.

#### Science.

**Hornaday.** American natural history. Scribner, \$3.50.

— Our vanishing wild life. Scribner, \$1.50.

Single volumes of old edition of Nature library published by Doubleday, such as Bird neighbors, Nature's garden, \$3.00. Grosset, \$1.25.

#### Useful Arts.

**Bailey.** Cyclopedia of agriculture. 4v. Macmillan, \$20.

**Garden and farm almanac.** Doubleday, 35c.

**Hopkins.** Scientific American reference book. New ed., 1914. Munn, \$1.50.

Compact handbook of descriptive and statistical material on trade, industries, etc.

**U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.** Farmers' bulletins.

On request, library will be placed on mailing list.

#### Fine Arts.

**Reinach.** Apollo, story of art throughout the ages. Scribner, \$1.50.

Absolutely necessary. If sufficient demand for art books, or a woman's club studying art will contribute toward purchase, buy

**Muther.** History of modern painting. Rev. ed., 4v. Dutton, \$25.

**Caffin.** Story of American painting. Stokes, \$1.00.

If more extensive history is desired, buy

**Isham.** History of American painting. Macmillan, \$5.00.

**De Bekker.** Stokes' encyclopedia of music and musicians. Stokes, \$3.00.

If less expensive and extensive work is wanted, buy

**Hughes.** Music lovers' cyclopedia. Doubleday, \$1.50.

**Upton.** Standard operas. McClurg, \$1.75.

**Glover.** Dame Curtsey's book of novel entertainments. McClurg, \$1.00.

#### Literature—General Works.

**Bartlett.** Familiar quotations. 10th ed. Little, \$3.00.

**Brewer.** Reader's handbook of famous names in fiction, allusions, references, proverbs, plots, stories and poems. Rev. ed. Lippincott, \$3.00.

**Bulfinch.** Mythology. Rev. ed. Crowell, \$1.50.

**Chambers.** Cyclopedia of English literature. New ed., 3v. Chambers, \$12.  
or

**Garnett & Gosse.** English literature. 4v. Grosset, \$10.

**Warner Library of the world's best literature.** 30v.

Can be bought through second-hand dealers for about \$20 to \$25.

#### Literature—Collections.

**Quiller-Couch.** Oxford book of English verse. Oxford, \$1.90.

**Stedman.** American anthology. Houghton, \$3.00.

#### Biography.

**Century cyclopedia of names.** Rev. ed., 1914. Century, \$8.00.

Can now be purchased separately.

**Who's who in America.** Marquis, \$5.00.

Issued biennially. Limited to persons living.

### Geography, Atlases.

**Bartholomew.** Literary and historical atlas of America. Dutton, Everyman's lib., 50c.

——— Literary and historical atlas of Europe. Dutton, Everyman's lib., 50c.

**Century** atlas of the world. Century, \$9.00.

**Cram, Hammond and Rand, McNally** publish good atlases from \$1.50 to \$12.00.

**Freeman & Chandler.** World's commercial products. Ginn, \$3.50.

### History.

**Channing and others.** Guide to the study and reading of American history. Rev. ed. Ginn, 1912, \$2.50.

**Folwell.** Minnesota. Houghton, Amer. commonwealth ser., \$1.25.

**Larned.** History for ready reference. 7v. Nichols, \$35.

Watch second-hand catalogs for lower price.

The importance of **Collecting Local History Material** in every community, was clearly set forth by Dr. Solon J. Buck, Secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Miss Mary Corson, Librarian of the Stillwater Public Library spoke on **The Librarians' Library**, referring to the books, periodicals and aids in book selection which should be at hand for constant use and emphasizing the necessity for keeping such material in convenient form for ready reference.

The closing session on Friday afternoon was devoted to business and committee reports.

### Miss Emma B. Nilsson presented the Report of the Committee on Foreign Book Lists.

If you will find my report one-sided or incomplete I beg you to remember that I have been alone in preparing it. The other members of the committee have detailed me to make it.

Foreign books in Public Libraries naturally are not meant to educate people in the languages of other countries. They are there chiefly to preserve the elements of culture in the foreign born of our people, elements which would otherwise be lost, for lack of an English education.

The necessity of making foreign booklists is acutely felt by every librarian. The difficulty of their preparation is chiefly of the linguistic order. The work for this year has been devoted to the preparation of Scandinavian booklists.

In making such lists one cannot always put the literary value of a book in the first place. The principal thing to ascertain in each instance is the cleanliness and wholesomeness of the mental food.

A big author's name does not always guarantee the fitness of his products. Discretion is necessary for the guidance of readers.

Still, it must be remembered that the foremost fiction writers of Scandinavia distinctly are leaders of thought and cultural development. Therefore we could not eliminate the realistic masterpieces of these writers from library booklists.

For average libraries and smaller groups of readers fiction is principally needed; only larger library centers require the full equipment of classed books and works of reference.

Fortunately technical books are comparatively not in much demand. This may seem strange because of the great number of engineers, mechanics, builders and skilled labor generally among the Scandinavians of this country.

The reason for this, can, I believe be found in the necessity for them, as soon as possible, to acquire familiarity with English terms and expressions. It is too difficult for them to keep in stock the technical terms of trade in two languages.

The expense of keeping abreast in the importation of technical works would be considerable, especially as the books would be out of date before they reached the library shelves.

Where resources permit the buying of classified books, it will be found that the Scandinavians are not lacking in appreciation of this kind of reading. Especially is this true of the men.

In the Scandinavian work in Minneapolis Public Library a great many works of literature proper are needed, critical essays, biographical sketches, poetry and drama. Books of history and travel are also much in demand. As the Scandinavian languages are taught not only in the University but also in the High Schools, reference work is of growing importance. The books on gym-



nastics will be more distinctly in demand as the Ling system of Swedish gymnastics is just being introduced in our public schools.

I have ventured to make a few booklists for distribution.

There is one list of books by masters of Swedish fiction. Another of Norwegian sea stories, as such are in constant demand. There are two lists of books by celebrated authors not suitable for small libraries, one Swedish and one Dano-Norwegian. There are also a few lists of books of various kinds lately added to the Minneapolis Public Library.

I will be glad to answer questions pertaining to this kind of work to the best of my ability.

The report was accepted and the Committee continued.

Miss Barden read the

#### **Report of the Committee on Library Training.**

The Committee on Library Training has made a study of the present educational equipment of librarians in Minnesota and of the possible extension of library training in the state. To gather material for this report a questionnaire was sent out in March including a register blank for the report of the education and experience of each librarian and library assistant above clerical grade. Questions were asked relative to professional reading, attendance at library meetings and the need of opportunity for further library training in Minnesota.

The majority of the replies to this questionnaire went through the St. Paul library fire of April 27th and were rescued from the ruins three months later in a remarkably good state of preservation. This good fortune has enabled the committee to proceed with its report.

Copies of the questionnaire were sent to all public libraries, normal school and college libraries, and to some special libraries. So few of the college and special libraries responded that it has been impossible to include them in this report. Replies were received from 49 out of 91 public libraries and from all 5 state normal school libraries. Of the 42 public libraries not heard from 24 are libraries of less than 2,500 volumes, so that the report may be considered fairly representative of the more important public libra-

ries of the state. Besides the public libraries and normal school libraries, the state supervisory offices, the Public Library Commission and the Department of Education, have been included. A survey of the status of school librarians has been made by Miss Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries, and included in the Report of the State High School Inspector.

The tabulated results of the register of Minnesota librarians now in the hands of the committee, show that of the 170 librarians and library assistants 34 per cent are college graduates and 30 per cent have had partial college courses or normal school training, making a total of 64 per cent whose general education has included some advanced work.

The statistics of special library training show a similar total—65 per cent, of which 29 per cent represents library school graduates and 36 per cent, those who have taken summer school or training class courses. The percentage of librarians apparently deficient in professional training might be reduced about one-half by omitting those librarians who receive salaries of \$40 per month or less and those who have had over 15 years' experience, both of which cases sufficiently explain the lack of library school training.

In view of the fact that about 50 per cent of the librarians and library assistants in the smaller public libraries (i. e. exclusive of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth) receive salaries of less than \$50 per month, a large percentage report library training: 18 per cent regular library school courses, 57 per cent summer school courses, making a total of 75 per cent. Minnesota librarians can justly be proud of the fact that so many of the librarians from the small towns have availed themselves of the opportunity for library training offered by the Summer School of the Minnesota Public Library Commission.

The total percentage of assistants with library training in the larger libraries is less than that of the smaller libraries (Minneapolis 73 per cent, Duluth 50 per cent, St. Paul 31 per cent), but the fact that the percentage of graduates from regular library schools is larger (Duluth 50 per cent, Minneapolis 39 per cent, St. Paul 21 per cent) indicates a higher grade of professional training in the larger libraries.

Although the figures representing the total number of librarians with special training are encouragingly high, they indicate professional training which is extensive and superficial rather than intensive and thorough, for, if we take as the ideal of adequate training for librarianship a full college course followed by a course in an accredited library school, only 17 per cent of the librarians included in this report measure up to the ideal.

The need, then, in Minnesota is for more thorough training of those librarians whose professional study has been limited to summer courses, and of better opportunities for those who are preparing to be librarians.

In considering the means of making possible better professional training for librarians, the financial question is fundamental. Until adequate salaries are paid to librarians, adequate training cannot be demanded. One of the reasons most often mentioned in favor of a library school in Minnesota is that more librarians and prospective librarians could afford to attend it.

That a high-grade, thoroughly equipped library school in Minnesota would be the best means of raising the standard of library training in the state is unquestioned, and it is true that at present there is great need of such a school to supply trained assistants for the larger libraries especially. It is not too soon to begin to talk about it, but until a library school can be properly supported and administered, it should not be attempted.

The suggestion that special advanced courses be added to the Summer School has been quite generally approved. Some of the subjects suggested are as follows: Cataloging, Public documents, Reference work, Bibliography, Book selection, Publicity, Work with schools, Club work, Literature, Story hour, History, Classification.

A beginning in specialization in the Summer School has already been made. This year a special course was offered for school librarians, given under the direction of Miss Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries. There seems to be no reason why further special and advanced courses cannot be given in the Summer School if there is sufficient demand for them. This plan seems to be the most feasible for the immediate extension of library training in the state. The committee recommends, therefore, that

a motion be made placing the Minnesota Library Association in favor of the immediate addition of advanced courses to the Summer School.

Individual efforts toward the increased efficiency of assistants are being made in the larger libraries by apprentice classes in St. Paul and Duluth. Staff meetings are reported by Minneapolis, Duluth and Winona. The systematic reading and discussion of current library periodicals might well receive more attention.

Regular attendance at library meetings is reported by about 50 per cent of the smaller libraries, with the librarian's expenses paid in most cases. In the larger libraries time is granted to assistants.

This report is submitted as covering only part of the subject of library training in Minnesota, and the committee recommends that this subject be given further consideration by the Association and that a constant effort be made to increase the opportunities for professional study among the librarians in the state.

The report was accepted and its recommendations approved. The Committee was continued.

The Committee on constitution submitted a revised constitution, as printed in Library Notes and News, June, 1915, which was adopted.

Upon motion of the nominating committee, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Miss Frances E. Earhart, Duluth.

First Vice President—Miss Eleanor Gladstone, Northfield.

Second Vice President—Miss Audiene Graham, Owatonna.

Secretary-Treasurer—Raymond L. Walkley, Minneapolis.

With the retiring president, Dr. Dawson Johnston, as the 5th member of the executive board.

Virginia meeting place, 1916. A cordial invitation to hold the next meeting in Virginia has been unanimously accepted by the executive board. Librarians should begin to plan now to take advantage of the opportunity afforded to visit the Range libraries, which are unique in many respects, and worthy of study.

### TWIN CITY LIBRARY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Twin City Library Club was held at the close of a supper in Esler's Tea Shop, Minneapolis, Tuesday, October 26, 1915. Fifty-eight people were present to hear Mr. F. K. Mathiews of New York, Chief Scout Librarian of the Boy Scouts of America. After outlining the three steps of boys' reading—fairy tales, adventure stories, and romances, Mr. Mathiews showed that the natural imagination of boys must find expression in other ways, and how this could be done by books of "what and how to do things," books about great men and heroes, etc.

He went on to tell of the evolution of nickel novels, which we now get in the form of a twenty-five cent book. Investigation has shown that the manuscripts for these are manufactured on a wholesale basis by a syndicate of clerks who are furnished with a mere outline of the plot.

It was very interesting to hear what the Boy Scouts' organization has done and is trying to do to replace these with books which will improve and inspire boys in a way which cannot be done by books written to order. Some of the methods used are co-operation with writers and publishers, reading of manuscripts, and the printing of good books in cheaper editions from old plates. Mr. Mathiews also spoke of the Juvenile Book week and what he hoped it could accomplish, answering questions as to how it might be advertised.

In the absence of Dr. Johnston, Miss Countryman presided, and also conducted the business meeting. The following officers were elected for 1916: President, R. L. Walkley; Vice President, Dr. Solon Buck; Secretary, Miss Ethel Berry; Treasurer, Miss Bertha Barden.

R. L. WALKLEY, Secy.

### CLARA BALDWIN LIBRARY CLUB.

The Clara Baldwin Library Club held a meeting in Virginia, October 26th, with members of the library forces of Nashwauk, Keewatin, Hibbing, Chisholm, Buhl, Mt. Iron, Eveleth and Virginia libraries in attendance. They were all entertained at a luncheon prepared by the girls of the high school domestic science department at noon and then repaired to the Virginia library, where the program was taken up.

Miss Margaret Hickman of Eveleth and

Louise Richardson of Hibbing, spoke on "Handicraft Exhibits in the Library." Miss Ethel Wright of Virginia spoke on "Club Directors and Organization," citing how the work is accomplished in the Cleveland (Ohio) libraries. Miss Alice Storey of the Virginia library spoke on the value of Modern Dramatic Reading.

### LIBRARY EXTENSION WORK IN HAWAII.

By HELEN J. STEARNS.

With the opening of the beautiful Library of Hawaii in 1913, library activities in the Hawaiian Islands received a great impetus. A free branch library at Hilo on the Island of Hawaii was opened August, 1913. Two subscription libraries, one at Wailuku on Maui and one at Waimea on Kauai have been opened. Later, it is hoped to make these free branch libraries. Stations have been established in five Honolulu schools, in the Beretania settlement, the Y. M. C. A. and the Marconi wireless station.

When, in 1911, the legislature of Hawaii added \$25,000 to Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$100,000 for a territorial library, it was with the understanding that a system of traveling libraries should be established in the islands. A committee on Islands' and stations' libraries was appointed from the library board. A beginning was made at once and ten stations were located in various parts of the islands. This number has increased steadily until there are, at the present time 54 stations, twenty-five of which are home library stations. For the year ending July, 1915, 76 collections comprising 4,821 vols. were made up and 1,098 vols. sent out to home stations.

In almost every instance the libraries have been sent in response to requests for special books, so quite naturally an open shelf system has seemed more advantageous than a system of fixed collections. As the number of stations increases a few duplicate sets will be placed in circulation to serve localities which have no special problems but which wish "just pleasant reading."

The traveling library collection is small but books will be added as the demand increases. The collection is, meanwhile, supplemented by loans from the main library, which contains about 30,000 vols. Libraries varying from 25 to 75 vols. have been sent to regular stations. Home libraries limited to 20 vols. are issued on special readers' cards.

The Library of Hawaii pays transportation to and from the nearest port, except in the case of home libraries when the applicant assumes all expense. Transportation across the islands is practically impossible on account of mountain ranges.

Many traveling libraries are placed in the schools on plantations, others in banks, homes, etc. In a recent report, Miss Allyn, Librarian of the Library of Hawaii says: "Recognition of our efforts and appreciative expression have been spontaneous and general. A principal of one of the larger out-of-town schools on Oahu, recently said, 'I feel that I have never before been able to do so much for my pupils as I have this year through the influence of the libraries sent me.' She then spoke of the way in which these foreign children, who had never read a book themselves, had by story and by reading aloud been lured first to books with attractive colors, then to those with pleasing titles, until now her greatest trouble is to get books enough."

One of the most interesting problems is suggestive lists for books to be purchased for the army posts. Eight thousand soldiers are now quartered in and around Honolulu. There are six forts and two naval stations, each having its own collection of books. Scofield barracks, 25 miles from Honolulu has a good sized library housed in a building made from lava rock.

It is planned to open stations in the fire departments of the city, as well as in one or two factories.

#### THE NEW LIBRARIAN'S ALMANAC.

**November 29—December 4—Safety First Juvenile Book Week.** The Boy Scout Library Commission, in co-operation with the American Booksellers' Association, and American Library Association, has appointed November 28—December 4 as Safety First Juvenile Book Week. The list of Books Boys Like Best has been distributed to every library in the state, but unfortunately the order was delayed in reaching the Commission office. It is hoped, however, that libraries will be able to observe this week in some way.

The lists will be of service at any time both as suggestions for purchase, and for reading lists. Additional copies may be secured from the Library Commission at the rate of \$2 per 100.

The Commission list of **Children's Books for Christmas Gifts** in a new edition, compiled by Martha Wilson has also been distributed. Twenty-five copies of this list will be sent to any library in the state upon request, and larger quantities may be secured at the rate of 75c. per 100.

**December 25, Christmas.** The demand for Christmas material is now insistent. One library in the state has made a type-written list of all Christmas material to be found in the library, including plays, poems, stories and magazine articles. This will be invaluable for immediate use and for future reference. A few of the best collections are:

Dickinson & Skinner—Children's book of Christmas stories. Doubleday, \$1.25.  
Olcott—Good stories for great holidays. Houghton, \$2.00.

Schauffler—Christmas. Moffat, \$1.00.

Skinner—Little folks' Christmas stories and plays. Rand, 75c.

Smith & Hazeltine—Christmas in legend and story. Lothrop, \$1.50.

For longer list of stories, see Buffalo Public Library. Class-room libraries for public schools.

Hazeltine. Anniversaries and holidays.

Humble. Children's books for first purchase.  
Power. Lists of stories and programs for story hours.

Plans for a Community Christmas Tree are set forth in detail in the recent bulletin of the Drama League: Suggestions for Christmas and New Year Celebrations, comp. by Clara Fitch.

**December 28-31.** Midwinter library meeting in Chicago.

**January.** Is your town making plans for the celebration of the Shakespeare Tercentenary? The Drama League Bulletin No. 2 has been sent to every library and to the study clubs. This contains many definite suggestions for community celebrations, pageants, Shakespeare programs, etc., and a list of material published by the Drama League. The part to be played by libraries, large and small, is an important one. One suggestion is to make a special feature of the Shakespeare shelf or section, providing attractive editions of the most popular plays and reference material. The Commission will have on file all the material published by the Drama League, to be loaned to libraries or clubs upon request.



**February 12, Lincoln's birthday.** See  
Hazeltime—Anniversaries and holidays.  
Buffalo Public Library—Class-room libraries for public schools.

Schauffler—Lincoln's birthday.

**February 14, St. Valentine's Day.** See  
Hazeltime—Anniversaries and holidays.

**February 22, Washington's birthday.** See  
Buffalo Public Library. Class-room libraries for public schools.

Schauffler—Washington's birthday.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PUBLICATIONS.

The librarian of the University announces that the University will be glad to send any of its publications to any Minnesota library upon request.

These include the Research Publications, the Current Problems series, and the publications of the Geological and Natural History Survey.

The bulletins of the Agricultural Experiment Stations are, upon request, sent to any one interested. Applications should be addressed to the Agricultural Experiment Station, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

Recent publications of interest are:

**Gregory, Winifred.** Bibliography of Minnesota mining and geology (Minn. School of Mines, Exp. Sta. Bulletin No. 4).

Will be sent free to the libraries of the state upon request. There are also a number of copies of the earlier bulletins of this series, which are of special value to the Range libraries, which are available for distribution. Requests should be made to the Director, Minnesota School of Mines Experiment Station, Minneapolis.

**Krey, A. C.** Bulletin for teachers of history. (Current problems, No. 7).

**Pike, J. B.** Bulletin for teachers of Latin. (Current problems, No. 6).

A list of Minnesota documents in the University library is nearly completed, and it is probable that it will be printed for distribution.

Address all correspondence regarding University publications to The Librarian, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

The **Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences** issues an annual volume of proceedings containing much timely material by writers of authority on economic, political, social and historical questions, particularly affecting the state of Minnesota. Volume 8 recently published covers the general subject of Women and the State, with discussions of minimum wage laws, mothers' pensions, the wo-

man's reformatory and enfranchisement of woman.

Annual dues are \$2 entitling a member to the publications of the current year. New members may secure a complete set of previous volumes at the rate of \$1 each if ordered when membership is taken. Volumes will be sold separately at \$2 each.

Address J. F. Ebersole, Secy., Care University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.

#### WANTED.

**Minnesota Dairy & Food Commission.** Reports No. 10, 12 & 14.

**Minnesota Forestry Association.** Forest tree planters' manual, 3d, 4th, 5th, 9th and 11th editions.

A. D. Keator, Useful Arts Dept., Minneapolis Public Library.

#### FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

**Gibbon—Rome.** 5v.

**Guizot—History of France.** 7v.

**Macaulay—History of England.** 5v.

**Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars.** 2v.

**Nations of the World.** 12v.

**Spofford—Standard library of choice literature.** 10v.

**Harper's Monthly, 1880-1883, bound,**  $\frac{3}{4}$  lea.

**Literary Digest—v. 44, 1912, v. 48, 1914, and odd numbers of v. 45, 1912, v. 46, 47, 1913, v. 49, 1914.**

**Readers' Guide—(Back no's in paper covers.)**

**Munsey's—v. 14-18 and 20-22, bound in**  $\frac{3}{4}$  lea.

**Review of Reviews—v. 14-29, backs held by super., v. 17-19, 21, bound in**  $\frac{3}{4}$  lea.

**REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY,**  
M. Frances Moore, Libn.

#### TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

Co-operating with the Department of Public Welfare, the Library Commission confined its exhibit at the State Fair this year to a collection of the best books for a child's own library and the best periodicals for children. Suitable pictures for a child's room loaned by the Beard Art. Co. of Minneapolis decorated the wall space. Lists of Children's Books for Christmas Gifts were distributed.

The U. S. Bureau of Education through its Home Education Division has started a National Reading Circle. The following courses are either ready for distribution or in preparation:

Course I. The Great Literary Bibles.

Course II. Masterpieces of the World's Literature.

Course III. A Reading Course for Parents.

Course IV. Miscellaneous Reading for Boys.

Course V. Miscellaneous Reading for Girls.

Course VI. Twenty-five Books of Great Fiction.

Course VII. Some of the World's Heroes.

Course VIII. American Literature.

Course IX. Biography.

Course X. History.

Readers may take one or more courses. They are required to read Course I twice during the three years succeeding enrollment. Any other courses are to be read but once. No reading done previous to the date of enrollment will be considered adequate.

A certificate will be given for each course completed.

The Minnesota Library Commission has agreed to furnish the sets of books to small communities if there are several who are reading the same course or to loan them singly to individuals.

The books are chiefly the well known classics which should be in every public library and libraries should be prepared to supply the books for anyone in the community who may wish to undertake the course.

#### SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

The report of the Inspector of State Graded Schools and the report of the Inspector of State High Schools present details of the school libraries as given in reports of the principals and superintendents to the Department of Education. Items tabulated are: number of books, additions for the year, expenditures for books and magazines. The number of books in graded schools is given as 138,000, in high schools 308,000. The summaries give a general view of the equipment and service in these libraries.

The attempt has been made to visit all the teacher librarians who attended summer school, who were inexperienced in library work and who had to organize the libraries.

A visit was made to Alden September 2-4 to assist in reorganizing the school library and on October 12 to speak at a meeting of the Parents' and Teachers' League. The library is in charge of Miss Ruth Hanson and

is giving good service to the town as well as the school. The Parents' and Teachers' League has a library committee which is helpful in increasing the use and interest.

September 13-15 was spent at Osakis in reorganization of the school library collection. The new books for the school have been bought in reinforced library bindings, probably the first school to try this plan.

Rochester, Chatfield and Waseca were visited in the week of September 20th and the school librarians at Atwater and Buffalo assisted in organization work during the week of September 27th. Atwater has a large collection which had been classified and accessioned. Miss Ella Rundquist, the high school principal, is in charge. She was a member of the Summer School class of 1915. The Buffalo school is building a large addition and is planning a fine suite of three rooms for the library. The rooms are on the first floor, easy of access from two outside entrances. It is possible that the public library may be moved into one room and the middle room will be used as a reading room for both school and public library. Miss Ester Peterreins has charge of the music in the school and the library.

A northern trip included Barnesville, East Grand Forks, Crookston and Stephen. The East Grand Forks school has opened a library room on the ground floor, greatly to the delight of the little children, and the convenience of the high school boys and girls. So useful has the library become that arrangements have been made with the teachers that the library may be open all day. The librarian, Miss Helen Spence of Milwaukee, has had experience in the children's room of the Public Library there.

The library at Stephen is in charge of Mrs. F. H. Koos, wife of the Superintendent of Schools. Before the library was organized the board was reluctant to set aside a room for this purpose. Now that the books are in order and marked and a library atmosphere created, there is a feeling that in the enlargement of the building, the library must have a larger room more conveniently situated. In this library not only the books but also the pamphlets have been very well classified and arranged.

Fairmont is building a large new high school building. Provisions for the library room are not as adequate as in most of the new Minnesota schools.

The high school at Little Falls has a library room connecting with the assembly. Miss Mary Clark, science teacher is in charge. Assistance in organizing was given October 19-20, including organization of the high school library and the library in teachers' training department. Instruction in mending and on the care of the rural school library was given to the students in this department and to the high school students on the use of the library. A talk was also made before the Woman's Club.

The M. E. A. met in Minneapolis the week of October 25th. At the business meeting on October 28th a motion was made that a Division of School Librarians be formed under the Department of Professional Education. The school librarians met for dinner at Esler's tea room Thursday evening with thirty-one in attendance. Brief talks on various phases of school library work were made by Mr. R. B. McLean, Inspector of State Graded Schools, Miss Theda Gilde-meister, Winona Normal School, Miss Alice N. Farr, librarian of the State Normal School, Mankato, whose toast to The School Librarian is printed below, Miss Anna Armstrong of Howard Lake, Miss Clara F. Baldwin of the Public Library Commission and Miss Lois Spencer, "Field Librarian" of the South Dakota Library Commission, who was a guest of the Library Commission.

Officers for the Division of School Librarians were elected as follows:

Miss Alice N. Farr, Mankato, President.

Miss Anna Armstrong, Howard Lake, Vice President.

Miss Mabel Bartleson, Minneapolis Public Library, Secretary.

As a part of the Normal School conference, the librarians met on Friday morning and the discussion was led by Miss Ruth Ely of Duluth.

Other organizing visits have been made to Hallock, Delano, Shakopee and Fertile. Talks were made at The Parents' and Teachers' League in Wayzata and at teachers' meetings at Thief River Falls and Ada.

The mid-winter meeting of the School Libraries Section of the A. L. A. of which Miss Mary Hall is president will include a strong high school library session.

A blank for record of books loaned in school libraries has been prepared and is published by the Democrat Printing Com-

pany, Madison, Wis., price 6c. It has spaces for each day of the school year and these are subdivided into grade, fiction and classed and high school, fiction and classed.

The class in elementary library methods in the College of Education numbers seven. Three teachers in the St. Paul schools, Miss Mary Farley, Miss Eda Johnson and Miss Margaret Mahoney, Miss Sophie Holzheid, librarian White Bear school, Miss Ruth Wright, of the graduate school, and Miss Eleanor Liedl and Miss Helen Sims of the College of Education. Miss Sims was formerly in the Warrensburg, Mo., Normal School Library.

Miss Elsa Barquist, South High School, Minneapolis, attended Miss Mary Hall's lectures on the high school library at Columbia the past summer.

Miss Edith Grannis, Albany, 1915, has been appointed librarian of Buhl High School to succeed Miss Ruth Vandyke, who resigned to become librarian at Coleraine, her home town.

Miss Alma Penrose, Illinois Library School, 1914, for the past year reviser at the school, has been appointed librarian of West High School, Minneapolis.

M. W.

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN.

By ALICE N. FARR, Librarian, State Normal School, Mankato.

If I were a school librarian,  
I know what I would do;  
I'd seek to know the children  
All the grades through;  
I'd bring good books among them,  
Their many charms I'd plead,  
'Til every child in school  
Found something he would read.

If I were a school librarian,  
I know where I would go;  
Straight to the library shelves  
Where books need sorting so;  
I'd sort and mark and place them,  
So anyone could see  
Just the book he needed  
In the place it ought to be.

Are you a school librarian?  
Then friend your life is glad  
With wondrous opportunity  
The past has never had;  
On you the state is counting  
To help bring on the day  
When schools shall have the books they need,  
All used in the wisest way.

Are you a school librarian?  
Then do not, pray, lose heart,  
Though problems rise before you  
Taxing all your art;  
For you can bring to many  
A joy they never knew,  
If books as tools, and books as friends,  
They learn to know through you.

Given at School Librarians' dinner, Minneapolis, October 28.

### PERSONAL.

Miss Helen J. Stearns, for four years librarian of the Minnesota Public Library Commission, has been appointed Librarian of the Islands Department of the Library of Hawaii, Honolulu, and sailed for Honolulu October 7th. Miss Stearns writes with enthusiasm of the beauties of Hawaii and of her work, an account of which appears in another column.

Miss Amy Cowley, recently librarian at Hutchinson, Kan., has been appointed librarian of the traveling libraries and will begin her work in Minnesota January 1st. Miss Cowley is a graduate of Northwestern University and the New York State Library School, 1914, and has had experience in the Northwestern University Library and in the Newark Free Public Library.

Dr. Dawson Johnston, Librarian of St. Paul, spoke at the Indiana Library Association, at Gary, November 10th, on The New Social Spirit in Library Service.

Miss Lydia Poirier, formerly librarian at Duluth, has announced her engagement to Mr. E. M. Goddard, formerly State Librarian of Vermont. The wedding will take place in the near future.

Miss Martha Chapin, formerly librarian at Owatonna, was married October 12th to Mr. John Albert Beckwith of Portland, Ore.

Miss Nellie B. Gregg, for eight years librarian at Northfield, was married October 6th to Mr. John Hurst, of River View Farm, St. Paul. The service was read by Dr. George Huntington.

Mrs. Jessie M. Bollinger, librarian at Coleraine, was married November 4th to Mr. David Watts of St. Paul.

Miss Dorothy Hurlbert, formerly librarian at Moorhead, was appointed librarian at Hibbing and began work September 1st.

Miss Celia Frost, who has been children's librarian at the Seven Corners Branch, Minneapolis, has been appointed children's librarian at Hibbing, and Miss Enid Stafford succeeds Miss Mae Furlong as general assistant.

Miss Jennie Lasby, a graduate of Carleton College, has been appointed librarian of the Northfield Public Library, succeeding Miss Gregg.

Miss Ruth VanDyke succeeds Mrs. Bollinger as librarian at Coleraine.

Mr. Miles Dickey, librarian at Wayzata, resigned his position last January, being in his 91st year. The success of the Wayzata library is largely due to Mr. Dickey's efforts. In recognition of this, the library board suggested that the library be called the Miles Dickey Public Library, but Mr. Dickey modestly declined this honor. Miss Sara Lamb succeeds Mr. Dickey as librarian.

Miss Perrie Jones, librarian at Wabasha, is attending the library school of the New York Public Library and Miss Rebecca Ruth Brown is in charge of the Wabasha library.

Miss Josephine Cloud, who has been on leave of absence for some time on account of health, has taken charge of the county extension work of the Minneapolis Public Library.

Other changes in the Minneapolis staff are as follows:

Miss Louise Lamb, who has been at the Central library for the past year, is librarian of the new Central Ave. Branch.

Miss Fannie Duren of the Franklin Branch resigned October first on account of ill health. Miss Ethel Berry, who has been in charge of factory libraries, has been appointed in her place and will begin her duties November 1st.

Miss Clara Fanning has been appointed an assistant in the Reference dept. and began work the first of October. Miss Fanning comes to Minneapolis from the H. W. Wilson Co. where she has been editing the Book Review Digest.

Miss Grace White is now in charge of the children's work at the Walker Branch. Miss White has had experience under Miss Hewins of Hartford, Conn., and in the New York Public Library.

Miss Leonora Mann has been appointed assistant in the Art Department.

The members of the St. Paul library staff are attending library school. Miss Mary Tawney is at Albany, Miss Edah Burnett at Simmons College, Boston, and Miss Della McGregor at the Training School for Children's Librarians, Pittsburgh.

Recent appointments on the staff of the University Library are Amanda M. Flattery and Clara Larson, catalogers; Alice Charlton, classifier; Gertrude Veblen, assistant in charge of the engineering library; Mrs. Elsie B. Martin, agricultural library assistant.



## NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

**Albert Lea.** The library has been entirely redecorated this fall.

**Alden.** Beginning in September, the Alden school library has been open to the public every afternoon from four to five and on Saturday evenings from 7 to 8:00. Miss Ruth Hanson, who attended the library school the past summer is librarian, and was assisted in reorganizing the library by Miss Wilson, State Supervisor of School Libraries.

Miss Hanson has already arranged for a course of five lessons in reedwork and basketry under the auspices of the library, and the Commission exhibit of Venetian sketches was loaned to the library in October. A series of story and reading-hours and exhibits will be given throughout the year.

**Belle Plaine.** The Woman's Study Club gave a lawn fete for the benefit of the library late in August.

**Bemidji.** A story hour in charge of Miss Gladys Stanton, Kindergarten instructor, will be held at the library every Saturday. At the first meeting in November, the library was crowded to its capacity.

**Biwabik.** The opening of the school library to the public has proved a popular measure, and \$400 worth of new books have been purchased.

**Brainerd.** A song recital was given October 29th under the auspices of the Brainerd Musical Club and the Elks' Lodge. The proceeds, \$125, will be devoted to opening the library every day.

**Chatfield.** The school library has been combined with the public library. Miss Haven, the Commission organizer, has been assisting the librarian in effecting the transfer, and in starting a dictionary catalog. While in Chatfield she addressed the Woman's Club and also the Commercial Club on the use of the library, explaining the system of cataloging by the use of cards attached to the book by ribbons.

**Chisholm.** The use of the library as a social center is justifying the splendidly equipped club rooms. The night class in agricultural work is held in the auditorium two nights a week, and various other organ-

izations meet regularly at the library. The teachers make the club room their headquarters whenever it is not engaged for some other purpose.

The librarian has been giving instruction in the use of the library to High School English classes.

**Crosby.** Prof. G. W. E. Hill of Stillwater gave a lecture for the benefit of the library on the war of 1914, a chapter of personal experiences.

A gift of 200 books has been received from Mrs. Millie Bunnell of Duluth.

**Duluth.** The Carnegie Corporation has donated \$30,000 for the West End branch, and plans for a brick and stone structure of Gothic design have been accepted. Another branch will be opened in the Stowe school to serve Morgan Park and New Duluth.

Including schools, factories, mills, car barns and fire halls, there are now 33 points outside the main library and two regular branches where books are distributed.

**Eveleth.** The men's smoking and reading room in the basement of the library is well patronized.

The story hour during October was attended by 1,494 children.

**Faribault.** Through the will of the late A. D. Keyes, the library received all of the books constituting his miscellaneous library, with black walnut book cases containing the books, and a black walnut library table and library chair. The library was a well selected one, comprising many valuable standard sets.

**Grand Rapids.** The Woman's Club has given \$60 for books and the High School pupils are planning to give a play for the benefit of the library.

The library is now sending books to 64 schools in Itasca county, and will ask the county commissioners for an increase in appropriation.

**Hibbing.** A station of the public library has been established in the fire hall at Alice, in charge of the firemen.

**Hopkins.** The library board has decided to purchase the pictures of the Evolution of the Book from the Library of Congress mural paintings.

The Women's Improvement League has undertaken the maintenance of a story hour.

**Hutchinson.** The library has inaugurated its usual entertainment course which opened with a concert October 11th.

**Litchfield.** Sixty dollars, the proceeds of a benefit play, was spent in decorating the walls of the library and improving the basement.

**Long Lake.** F. T. Heffelfinger presented to the library a choice collection of pen drawings of the presidents of the U. S. by P. R. Andebert of Paris.

**Long Prairie.** At a recent meeting of the library association, \$43 in membership fees was collected and it was voted to purchase \$100 worth of books.

**Madison.** The library was redecorated during the summer. Mr. S. E. Farnham, editor of the Independent Press has presented to the library a file of the paper for 32 years.

**Mankato.** Instruction in the use of periodical indexes was given to the High School sophomores in their class rooms. A lesson was also given at the library to the class in sociology.

**Mapleton.** The Ladies' Study Club gave a reception to the teachers at the library in September.

**Minneapolis.** The new Carnegie branch building at Central Ave. and Twenty-second Ave. N. E. was dedicated November 15th, with brief addresses by members of the library board and the librarian. A business branch will be opened January 1st in a former banking room near the New York Life Building, in the heart of the business and office district. Mrs. Mary W. Dietrichson, now in charge of the municipal reference department at the Central library will be in charge. Three new stations have been established in drug stores, and library service is to be extended to city and county jails.

The Sumner Branch will move into its new building on the corner of Emerson and 6th Ave. North, on or about December 1st.

The Seward School Branch has been moved into much larger quarters. During the winter the branch will be open Saturdays mornings.

The tax levy for the library has been increased one-tenth of a mill, making \$20,000 additional. It now costs Minneapolis taxpayers three cents on each dollar paid in taxes to support the library. With this amount, the Minneapolis system ranks highest among the large libraries in the country in per capita circulation and the per cent of population holding cards.

Miss Countryman spoke on the work of the library at the October meeting of the Minneapolis Real Estate Board.

**Montevideo.** The library, which contains about 7,000 well-selected volumes is being cataloged with the assistance of Miss Haven, organizer for the Library Commission.

**Moorhead.** The circulation for September was nearly double that of last year. In order to accommodate students and patrons in the reading room it has been necessary to rearrange the room and furnish more tables and chairs. A handicraft exchange was held at the library in November.

**Northfield.** The library appropriation has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

**Owatonna.** The librarian is trying some movie slides and suggests that an exchange system might be established with other libraries.

**Red Wing.** During September the pupils have visited the library in classes for instruction in the classification and arrangement of books and the use of the card catalog and reference books. A brick fire-place has been put in the children's room, which will add much to its cheerfulness. The basement rooms have been put in good condition to be used for club and committee meetings or other small gatherings.

**Rochester.** The library board asked the city council for \$10,000 for an addition to the library building. The council allowed \$4,200, believing that this sum will get the building started and that the indebtedness remaining can be provided for in next year's levy.

**St. Cloud.** The library will now be opened continuously from 1 to 9 p. m. and until 10 o'clock on Saturdays.

Posters giving library hours have been placed in hotels and railroad waiting rooms, with an invitation to strangers to visit the reading room.

**St. Louis Park.** A novel library party was given by Miss Margaret Fletcher, librarian of the combination High School and Public Library of St. Louis Park in the library room in the new High School building. The guests were the grade and High School teachers, principals of the five schools and the superintendent and his wife.

Invitations were sent in the form of catalog cards—the librarian's name as author, "Library party" as title and the date of the party as the publisher's date. Each guest

was requested to come dressed to represent the title of some well known book.

The librarian, dressed as Rebecca of Sunnyside Farm, accessioned the guests as they came, pinning a book pocket on each and giving them an accession number, and a book card on which to catalog the other books, in other words, write their guesses of the assumed titles.

After they were properly accessioned and cataloged and had studied the "Cutter author table," Miss Fletcher explained that they were to learn the more important divisions of classification. She had a list of them posted on the bulletin board and followed this as the program of the evening: Y028, Primers; Y398, Fairy stories; 640, Home economics; 780, Music; 793, Games; 800, Literature; 813, Drama; 921, Biography; F, Fiction.

For Y028 Miss Fletcher gave them the questions which came out in a recent Reader's Guide, on childhood lore based on Mother Goose. The other classification numbers represented games or guessing contests of some kind, 640, of course, being refreshments.

Full details of the program may be obtained by writing the Library Commission or from Miss Fletcher.

**St. Paul Public Library.** The library of the old St. Paul Academy of Natural Sciences has been transferred to the Public Library. Its collections number between three and four hundred volumes, chiefly valuable for material of local interest.

The Civil Engineers' Society has also donated to the city its library valued at \$4,000. The library contains complete files of the more important engineering periodicals and transactions.

A new delivery station has been opened in the center of the shopping district as a part of the public service of the Golden Rule department store.

New delivery stations have been opened also in the northern part of the city in Lake Park, at the request of the Lake Park Commercial Club and Tilden School Mothers' Club, and in the Rice School, at the request of the North Central Commercial Club and the Rice School Mothers' Club.

Juvenile Book Week is being observed by the appointment of Friday, December 3, as Library Day in the schools. The Superintendent of Schools has sent to teachers a

suggestive program prepared in the public library together with a list of material for use available in the library. A list of material on boys' reading available in the library is being sent by the Chief Scout Executive to the clergy of the city with the suggestion that the subject be discussed by them in their Sunday sermons, November 28th. One thousand copies of the list of Books Boys Like Best prepared by the National Scout Library Commission printed for the library are being distributed by the local Scout organization.

The city postmaster distributed 10,000 circulars November 18th calling the attention of citizens to the facilities offered by the postoffice for borrowing library books.

**St. Paul Historical Society.** The general contract for the Historical Building has been let, and work will be started at once. The building will be of Sauk Rapids granite. The plans have been revised to provide office room for the Department of Education as well as the Library Commission.

**Shakopee.** The public library which has been located in a confectionery store for the past two years, has been removed to the Union School building where it will be combined with the school library in charge of Miss Edna Schultz, who attended the Summer Library School. It will be open to the public Saturday afternoons and evenings.

**South St. Paul.** On September 14, Miss Lutie E. Stearns gave an illustrated lecture at the Ideal Theater on "South St. Paul's Greatest Need."

**Waterville.** The public library has been increased by gifts until it now contains about 1,000 volumes. There are 405 borrowers and 555 books were loaned in October.

**Winona.** An exhibit of the paintings of Nicholas R. Brewer was held in the art room of the public library the latter part of November.

**Worthington.** A play given for the benefit of the Worthington Carnegie Library netted \$55. Out of this amount an encyclopedia of music was purchased.

The story hour was conducted regularly from January until close of school. The ladies of the Community Club have taken over the use of the basement of the library and will fit it up for a club room.

The Worthington Choral Union, organized last January, holds its rehearsals in the basement in the library.